

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the application:

Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adari et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,353,327 (Adari *et al.*).

Claims 5, 6, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adari *et al.*

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adari et al. in view of Dunn, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,810 (Dunn).

Claims 1-18 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 have been amended. Hence, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-18 stand pending in the application. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adari. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested because Adari does not teach or disclose all of the elements of the independent claims -- claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 -- as amended

The present amendment amends independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 18. Independent claim 1, as amended, recites the limitation that the claimed system comprises "a connection interface coupled with the signal carrier and operable for attachment to a plurality of inside wiring, wherein the connection interface provides for coupling of the demarcation device with a plurality of customer premises equipment." Independent claim 16 is amended to recite the limitation that the claimed system comprises "a connection interface operable to couple the downstream voltage with a plurality of customer premises equipment." And independent claim 18 is amended to recite the limitation that the demarcation device is "located at a demarcation location" and is coupled with "a connection interface providing for coupling of the demarcation device with a plurality of inside wiring." No new matter is added by these amendments and support may be found for the amendments, *inter alia*, at ¶¶22-26.

These limitations, in combination with the other limitations of claims 1, 16 and 18 are believed to distinguish the claims from Adari, and render the claims in condition for allowance since Adari does not describe or suggest the use of an interface to connect a plurality of inside wiring and/or a plurality of customer premises devices to a single dial tone testing device located at a demarcation point for purposes of detecting status of telephone services to all customer equipment located on the customer's side of the demarcation point. To the contrary, Adari teaches away from such a configuration in that it specifically describes and discloses the connection of single inside wiring and/or a single customer premises device to a single telephone line diagnosing device. *See* Adari, Figs. 1 & 2 and associated description.

With regard to independent claim 17, the method claim has been amended to recite the limitation of "disconnecting inside wiring from the connection interface." This limitation emphasizes the self-help nature of Applicant's claimed method, in which a customer diagnosis location of telephone service problems relative to a demarcation point prior to contacting a service technician. Such a limitation is not taught or described anywhere in Adari. To the contrary, Adari discloses a maintenance termination unit that provides for telephone line diagnosis by a remote service technician rather than by customer actions.

These limitations, in combination with the other limitations of independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 are believed to distinguish the claims from Adari, and render the claims in condition for allowance since Adari does not describe or suggest connecting multiple inside wiring and/or customer premises equipment to a single telephone services monitoring device nor does it teach or suggest disconnecting inside wiring from a connection interface. For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 are believed to be allowable over Adari and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is respectfully requested. Claims 2-15 depend from independent claim 1 and are distinguishable for at least the same reasons.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 5, 6, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adari; and claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adari in view of Dunn. As discussed above, Adari does not teach or suggest

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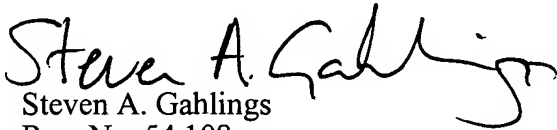
all of the limitations of independent claim 1 as amended. For at least this reason, claims 5, 6, 13, 14 and 15, which depend from independent claim 1, are believed to be patentable over Adari and over Adari in light of Dunn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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